



THE CATHOLIC LIBRARY WORLD

JAN 27 1945

Karl Adam, A Modern
Saint Augustine

Best Sellers of 1944

The Talbot Collection

VOL. 16, NO. 4

JANUARY, 1945

Compton Comment

CONTINUOUS encyclopedic revision has its humorous side. Quite naturally the public expects that each new annual edition of Compton's Pictured Encyclopedia will be up to date in so far as a record of major world events is concerned. And in these days when manpower shortages delay all printing programs, the fulfillment of this obligation to the public is resulting in gray hairs and thinned thatches in our Editorial Department.

As you may have heard, the United States elected a President and a Vice-President on November 7. Plates for our 1945 edition had to go on the press immediately after that date in order that we might have books bound and ready for delivery in January. If Roosevelt and Truman were to go into office on January 20, the encyclopedia had to carry articles to that effect. If Dewey and Bricker were elected, the encyclopedia had to include a new biography of Dewey complete with pictures, also information on Bricker.

To complicate the situation further, index entries had to be correct and ade-



quate. Likewise the tables listing the presidents and vice-presidents of the United States had to conform.

So two sets of copy were written and two sets of plates for the pages affected were made, complete with pictures. You know of course which set of plates we ran! Proof of the unused articles are now filed with dozens of others that no reader will ever see in their original form.

The new article on Italy didn't present quite so many difficulties, but it did undergo numerous changes in manuscript and in proof before it was finally released to the printer. These are turbulent times, and no one knows that better than encyclopedia editors.

* * *

"THE Magic of Poetry," a Compton article written by Stephen Vincent Benét is again available in pamphlet form. Single copies will be sent free to librarians and teachers so long as our stock lasts.

L.J.L.

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Contemporary Catholic Authors: Karl Adam, A Modern Saint Augustine

By AUSTIN J. APP, PH.D., Incarnate Word College,
San Antonio, Texas

"No religious writer of today combines in a more remarkable way profound theological learning and understanding than does the German writer, Dr. Karl Adam," wrote the editors of *Commonweal* in introducing an article by the Tuebingen professor, Father Adam.¹ A *Catholic World* article says, "Of all German interpreters of Catholic thought Karl Adam is the most appreciated in English-speaking countries".² A writer in *Thought* says, "... Dr. Adam is not only theologically safe, but is called the greatest of living German-speaking theologians".³

"As a bright light set in a room," writes Karl Adam, "throws its rays through the windows and illumines the dark street outside, so is it with the Catholic Church. The dark path of many a non-Catholic Christian is lit up by scattered rays that fall upon it from Christ's fellowship and the Church of His grace."⁴ Adam makes the Catholic Church through Christ the sun of the world, which shines even on the unwilling and the unseeing, and he does it in a style that is clear, allusive, and imaginative, and in a manner that is humbly learned and always gentle.

LIFE

Karl Adam was born in Oberfalz, Bavaria, October 22, 1876.⁵ He attended the classical gymnasium at Amsberg and the seminary at Regensburg. In 1900, at twenty-four, he was ordained a priest and for two years was curate in a parish. He then did post-graduate work in patrology and the history of dogma at the University of Munich, received his doctorate presumably in theology in about 1906, and remained at the Catholic theological faculty of Munich as Privatdozent.

An American fellow-student⁶ during 1906-7 at Munich, the only other priest at the school, describes Karl Adam at this time as a young priest of about thirty, of slight build about five feet five inches tall, with dark curly hair and olive complexion, who might have been mistaken for an Italian though he was Bavarian. He was "a very friendly and jolly fellow", and in Munich student-fashion drank beer with the rest.

He liked to provoke a discussion and defend any side of the question but would in the end always state the sound view. He was a good talker, lively and fluent.

1. "In the Jubilee Year," *Commonweal*, August 10, 1934, p. 361.

2. A. N. Raybould, "In the Vanguard of Catholic Thought", *The Catholic World*, September, 1933, p. 661.

3. John E. Wise, S.J., "Christologists Three", *Thought*, December, 1936, p. 402.

4. *Christ Our Brother*. Trans. by Dom Justin McCann, O.S.B. Macmillan Company, 1938, p. 200.

5. See *Guide to Catholic Literature, 1888-1940*, Walter Romig & Co., Detroit, 1940, under "Karl Adam" for basic biographical and bibliographical data, and the *British Who's Who*, Macmillan, 1944. The latter has an excellent list of the German titles of Karl Adam's publications.

6. The Rev. J. P. Donaghey, Ph.D., associate professor of philosophy and religion, Incarnate Word College, San Antonio, Texas.

As a pulpit or platform speaker, his manner was conversational rather than oratorical. In addition to his native German, he also spoke French and Italian fluently, and he knew English well enough to carry on a conversation in it. He was spoken of by other priests as "a coming young man", and was regarded by everybody as a good, pious priest, very observant of rules and regulations.

In 1915 he was promoted to the rank of associate professor (*ausserordentlicher Professor*) at Munich; in 1917, to professor of moral theology at Strassburg. During all these years, in 1907, in 1908, and in 1917, he published monographs, all but the first dealing with Saint Augustine. In 1919 he was given the chair of dogmatic theology at Tuebingen, with which university his name is principally connected.

The German title of his Tuebingen chair seems to have been "Lehrschule fuer Katholische Weltanschauung", possibly, the exposition of Catholicism among comparative religion courses, and open to and intended for Catholics, Protestants, and national socialists alike. Only a man of the widest knowledge of his own and other religions and of the greatest tact could hope to succeed in it. At the rate of about one every two or three years he published books, which were essentially a gathering together of his lectures, as is customary among European professors.

In 1924, he published his masterpiece, *Das Wesen des Katholizismus*, which by 1931 had gone into six German editions and several revisions. It was translated into several languages, of which the Italian translation was marred by inaccuracies and caused Adam some embarrassment. Subsequently, in the early thirties, the German Jesuits of the Cath-

olic University of Tokio were undertaking a Japanese Catholic Dictionary. When there was hesitancy about assigning the articles on Christ, Pope Pius XI suggested, "Why don't you get Karl Adam to write them!" When the prospective editor reported this to him, Father Adam wept for joy and embraced the bringer of this evidence of papal recognition.⁷

Obviously, Dr. Adam's career and activities during the last half decade are not known in English-speaking countries. According to one article, ". . . one cannot be too sure of the whereabouts of Dr. Adam. He has thrice been driven from professorial chairs, once for a very outspoken speech on the Jewish contribution to Christianity . . ."⁸ The source of this statement is not known to the present writer, but it does suggest Dr. Adam's prise of Saint Augustine, of whom he wrote, "To be a man is to be a fighter, and that is pre-eminently true of Augustine. . . . He had the courage to give an answer, even though the answer involved pain and conflict."⁹

WORKS

Sixteen German titles have been found listed for Karl Adam between 1907 and 1937. His early works were a monograph on Tertulian; three on Augustine; one each on faith, Pentecost, and charity; and then in 1924, the sum and center of all these, his *Spirit of Catholicism* (*Wesen des Katholizismus*). While new editions, eight by 1936, and foreign translations were succeeding each other, he flanked this masterpiece with *Christ Our Brother* and *The Son of God*. Short, but important supplements to this virtual trilogy are *Saint Augustine*, *The Odyssey*

7. Supplied by the Rev. Rudolf Kensy, S.J., Guadalupe Rectory, San Antonio, Texas.

8. John E. Wise, S.J., *op. cit.*, p. 401.

9. *Saint Augustine*, Macmillan Company, 1932, p. 54.

of his *Soul*, 1931, and *Christ and the Western Mind*, including "Love and Belief", 1932. All these titles are available in English translations, and with one other are the only ones treated in this article.

The other is the fifty-one page essay, "Jesus Christ and the Spirit of the Age", which in a book misleadingly entitled, *Germany's New Religion*,¹⁰ constitutes a Catholic answer to Wilhelm Hauer's "Origin of the German Faith Movement" (pp. 27-84), and follows Karl Heim's "Responsibility and Destiny" (pp. 87-113), which is a Protestant answer to Hauer. While not atheistic or pagan, the (national socialistic) German Faith Movement, like our Transcendentalism philosophically, theologically bases its ultimate ethical criterion, as Hauer states it, on the "unconditional surrender to the highest good of the nation" (p. 60). The Protestant objector, Karl Heim, insists on an objective universal moral code, more or less Kant's categorical imperative (p. 100).

Karl Adam places the ethical criterion in a transcendent God whose "supernatural revelation" is given "not to one particular nation, but to all men and nations alike . . . supraracial, supranational" (p. 137). Blood and nation suggest a natural and temporal morality, but God insists on a catholic morality. This will naturally always seem alien, yet only a culture founded on this revealed, supernatural, objective code is true and sound. Revealed Christianity is the only road to the "whole man" and to true "heroic

manliness" (p. 151). The essay explains and confutes excessive nationalism.

Because Karl Adam's theology and apologetics are rooted in Saint Augustine, his *Saint Augustine, The Odyssey of His Soul*,¹¹ the culmination in 1930 of three earlier works on him, suggests itself as an introduction to his great trilogy. "Its fifty-seven pages," writes one reviewer, "give a more complete conception of the soul and mind of the saint than do any of the ponderous biographies and analyses of his teachings which have been written during the last thousand years".¹²

According to Adam, the pagan Augustine grappled with the problems of how God can be real without being matter and of how evil can be reconciled with God. His mother's early influence forced him to measure his theories by the Church. Neoplatonism, with its emphasis on truth and spirit, helped him to realize God as an immaterial spirit, and evil as a negation of being. Become a Catholic and priest, his Neoplatonic background caused him to exaggerate spirit, for example, considering even marriage as involving "a certain sensual contamination" (p. 24), and to place our redemption more on Christ's being the divine Truth than on Christ's having become our Brother (p. 31).

But after becoming bishop in 396 and re-studying St. Paul, he saw more and more the "saving value of sorrow and penance" (p. 42), mankind's sinfulness (p. 44), and entire dependence on the saving power of grace, absolutely necessary both in faith and in morals for our

10. *Germany's New Religion. The German Faith Movement*, by Wilhelm Hauer, Karl Heim, Karl Adam. Trans. by T. S. Scott-Craig and R. E. Davies. The Abingdon Press, New York, 1937, pp. 168. For an understanding of contemporary problems and prejudices, all three essays are worth reading.

11. Trans. by Dom Justin McCann. The Macmillan Company: New York, 1932, pp. 65. This was a Centenary Address in honor of the Saint, given on May 4, 1930, and several times subsequently, and published in German as *Die geistige Entwicklung des heiligen Augustinus*, in 1931.

12. *Boston Transcript*, July 2, 1932, p. 2.

salvation. Saint Augustine's central conception finally was that "Redeemed humanity is to be regarded as an unfolding in space and time of the humanity of Jesus. Christ is the head, we are the members" (p. 45).

This, too, virtually is Adam's theme in all his works. Only in the matter of Augustine's "severity toward all schismatical and heretical communities", namely, as Augustine said, "that 'outside the Church there is nothing but the damned'," does Adam seriously differ from, and correct, Saint Augustine (p. 53).

Defining this very problem, the way of salvation through the Church of pagans, Jews, and Protestants, and accounting for the sins and imperfections of the members of the Church are for many the two most valuable contributions of Adam's masterpiece, *The Spirit of Catholicism*.¹³ "... one of the most remarkable contributions to Catholic Apologetics that has appeared in recent years," one reviewer calls it;¹⁴ another writes that "The Church of England newspaper alluded to it as 'the most complete and alluring study of the beauty of Catholic faith and system.'"¹⁵

The central thesis is that Christ and the Catholic Church are head and body of one infinitely various organism, imperfect in many of its members but all together striving for Christ-like perfection, growing in holiness and in extent, ever in

a state of becoming, until Christ's kingdom is fully realized, when the Church Militant and Suffering and Triumphant will have completed the glorified Christ. The Church existed even as the oak in the acorn from the moment of Christ's becoming man and our Brother. That oak has been ramifying and developing ever since, in spite of storms without and imperfections and dead branches within, and will continue to incorporate ever more human beings into the brotherhood of Christ, into the Mystical Body of the God-Man.

The book explains the place and need of Pope and hierarchy, how *bona fide* non-Catholics, too, are members invisibly of the Church and beneficiaries of her saving power, and why the Church is and always will be a Church of sinners as well as saints, among clergy as well as laity. The Church is in a state of becoming the glorified body of Christ; it is not so yet.

When the present writer, years ago, was so fortunate as to come upon *The Spirit of Catholicism*, and especially upon the last chapter which explains the sinfulness of so many Catholics and such blunders as the Inquisition, it removed at one stroke his most painful doubts and keenest anguish about Catholicism. He has ever since ranked this book first among those which specifically revolutionized his understanding and improved his happiness.

For the Church to be the one way through Christ to God, its founder and head must be both God and man. That He is true God, Adam proves in *The Son of God*.¹⁶ "It makes a glorious book," writes one reviewer, "—to be meditated

13. Dr. Karl Adam, *The Spirit of Catholicism*. Trans. by Dom Justin McCann, O.S.B. The Macmillan Company, 1929, pp. x, 237. This translation is made from the fourth and thoroughly revised German edition of 1927. To form an opinion of the translation, and to study Adam's style in the original, the present writer also used *Das Wesen des Katholizismus*. Sechste Auflage. Verlag von L. Schwann: Duesseldorf, 1931, pp. 294.

14. Gerald G. Walsh, S.J., *Review in Thought*, September, 1930, p. 314.

15. A. N. Raybould, *op. cit.*, p. 661.

16. Karl Adam, *The Son of God*. Trans. by Philip Herford. Sheed & Ward: London, 1934, pp. 309.

upon and prayed over, to be used as a model in . . . the author's method."¹⁷ It ought to be a first prescription for atheists, agnostics, and free-thinkers.

The pagans, explains Adam, had gods taking human form, but only Christianity adores a God that became true man (p. 2). He tells the life of the man Jesus Christ—the historical sources, His mind and interior life, His self-revelations, and finally His Resurrection—in such a way as to prove that this historical man Jesus is the second person of the triune God. He proves that only God was sufficient to atone for the enormity of our sins, and that only as man, as fellow man, could He voluntarily make the supreme sacrifice for our redemption. In the Mass, the Church perpetuates this divine atoning sacrifice upon which mankind's salvation depended and depends.

While *The Spirit of Catholicism* and *The Son of God*, having primarily a dogmatic value, would seem to be first requirements for those who want to find or reassure their faith in God and the Church, Karl Adam's *Christ Our Brother*¹⁸ is a valuable prescription for every Catholic and non-Catholic, learned and lay, who wants the help of Christ our brother to become a better brother to other men and other nations and God's more loving and virtuous child.

In Jesus, the Son of God, we have not merely a compassionate high priest but a brother, one of us, "one tempted in all things like as we are, without sin" (quoted, p. 68, from Heb. iv, 14). Jesus, like any of us, only more, loved nature, the simple good things of life, smiled and laughed, and, though keenly aware of

man's sinfulness, loved men, because as the head of the human brotherhood in the Church "He builds Himself His body . . . he is completing Himself in ever new members" (p. 64). Christ taught us the fatherhood of God, and is our brotherly mediator with Him. There is neither Jew nor Greek, white nor black, but are sinful men whose salvation depends on the grace of His mediation.

The book grapples with the problem of grace and faith and predestination. Adam speaks of "the mystery of divine predestination" and of "the mystery of divine election" (p. 208) for which "there is no solution on this earth" (p. 209), but "grace does not exclude responsibility nor does responsibility exclude grace" (p. 209). In general, Karl Adam follows Saint Augustine in stressing our helplessness without grace. "It depends on His grace alone whether" anyone will be great or small in heaven, or "will come to the Saviour's Heart without let or hindrance, or shall have to pass through sin and penance" (p. 141).

The "moral" of this doctrine, that grace is the decisive factor in one's attainment of virtue, is specifically developed in the essay "Love and Belief".¹⁹ In its twenty-six pages, Adam proves that loving God and one's neighbor as oneself are Christ's supreme injunctions to men. He then shows that men are so weak and sinful that those who would love them merely for humanity's sake will end by hating and even killing them. We can only love men as ourselves if we love them for God's sake, as our brothers in Christ. The Church by preserving this dogma of

17. J. McS., *Catholic World*, August, 1934, p. 627.

18. Karl Adam, *Christ Our Brother*. Trans. by Dom Justin McCann, O.S.B. The Macmillan Company: New York, 1938, pp. 210.

19. Karl Adam, *Two Essays. Christ and the Western Mind. Love and Belief*. Trans. by Edward Bullough, M.A. The Macmillan Company: New York, 1930, pp. 79.

the God-Man is therefore the only true mother of an effectual humanitarianism.

In the other essay, "Christ and the Western Mind", Adam calls upon Europe, which gave Christianity its truest acceptance and greatest development, to return to the Christ of dogma and to the love of man for God's sake. Without the Pope, Christ is lost to Europe, and without Christ, Europe will lose everything that made it the civilizing leaven of the world. Humanitarianism without God and the Christ of dogma is leading to "those autocratic, self-complacent, soulless things which we call State, Political Economy, Industry, Science", before which human beings become ciphers, and slaves "of these new absolute entities" (p. 31).

ATTITUDES AND IDEAS

Adam's main ideas are, of course, the dogmas of the Church which are the themes of the books. But some special impressions and ideas pervade his presentation of these dogmas. As a basis, in Dr. Adam's system, the correct concept of God as the eternal and infinite Good is absolutely necessary for a fine civilization and for "that true morality, which consists in doing good for the sake of the Good".²⁰ Hence theological research to discover the true God and His true Church is a duty, but it must be a humble, hopeful, prayerful research, favorably disposed toward evidence, not determined to confute and contradict.²¹

Such true research will find (and this is the heart of Adam's ideas), that God through the Catholic Church requires loving all men as our brothers and members of the Mystical Body of Christ. It follows that God's truth is universal, supranational, and supraracial,²² and that

"we must love all men, for God is the common Father of all".²³ There can be no class or caste system, for Christ "destroyed the very basis of all exclusiveness and caste".²⁴ Christ's charity has not "the slightest suggestion of class war. His love embraces the rich".²⁵ But wealth must not make men's approach to heaven difficult and religion must not be "a matter for the rich alone", and, therefore, Christ's stand against the Pharisees "took the form of a fight against riches" (*Ibid.*, p. 129).

Christ's brotherhood goes beyond kin and nationality. Adam explains and condemns narrow nationalism and uncatholic patriotism. He shows why all peoples want a God that is on their side rather than come to God's side, why they get angry at those who preach the true God of universal brotherhood, for such a God will always seem alien to their natural instincts. He warns against this tendency in the strongest terms and insists that this sort of nationalism crucified Christ, for "Had Jesus admitted to being a Christ in the Jewish nationalistic sense of the term, he would not have been crucified, even though his claim had been disputed and disallowed".²⁶ Adam similarly condemns despotism and state absolutism and state collectivism in "This collectivist conception of human existence personal rights or individual values",²⁷ are denied and human beings reduced to ciphers.²⁸

Adam, again and again, stresses the weakness, stupidity, sinfulness of men, whom even Christ called a "generation of vipers", and for whom he seems to have felt "something like a restrained

20. *Christ Our Brother*, *Ibid.*, p. 89.

21. *The Son of God*, *Ibid.*, p. 23ff.

22. *Germany's New Religion*, *Ibid.*, p. 137.

23. *Christ Our Brother*, *Ibid.*, p. 104.

24. *Christ Our Brother*, *Ibid.*, p. 100.

25. *Christ Our Brother*, *Ibid.*, p. 128. See also pp. 96-97.

26. *Son of God*, *Ibid.*, p. 178.

27. *Christ Our Brother*, *Ibid.*, p. 96.

28. *Christ and the Western Mind*, *Ibid.*, p. 31.

disgust".²⁹ And Adam insists that only for God's sake can and must weak, sinful, stupid man be loved. Charity is the supreme virtue. "We cannot here and now, in this world, separate the 'Just' and the 'Sinners'."³⁰

As regards heretics, Adam insists that the Church loves sinners and slays errors; he develops "a broad concept on salvation outside the visible Catholic Church".³¹ In his own writing "any sort of disparagement of the religious feelings of others shall be scrupulously avoided".³² And in a fine paragraph he says that, if great sections separated from the Church, it is not "their fault alone . . . we Catholics often must admit our guilt" (*Ibid.*, p. 96).

"*Mea culpa*" for Catholics is the final theme and admonition in all of Adam's works. Catholics are not to stand around blaming others for the wrongs of the world, but to study and admit their share in those wrongs, their share in high places and low. Catholics need more of the Spirit of Jesus "and especially the spirit of love and brotherliness, of loyalty and truth" (*Ibid.*, p. 96). Adam speaks often of simple, practical, forceful, and courageous preaching.³³ He emphasizes the need and power of praying and repeatedly calls for a broadening of individual and isolated piety into community and collective praying, gathered as loving members of the Mystical Body of Christ.³⁴ Finally, in his sermon to Catholic Youth, he says that, had Catholics been more Christ-like "our world would be now much surer of its way . . . and full of that beautiful spirit of peace, love and confidence which

is the very air He breathes".³⁵ This was in 1934!

STYLE

Karl Adam's works for us, of course, are translations from the German. The translations by Dom Justin McCann and that of *Son of God* by Philip Hereford have all been praised as "well done", "singularly admirable", and "superbly translated". This writer compared only *The Spirit of Catholicism* with the original. He found Dom Justin McCann's translation reliable and readable, considerate of the letter and spirit. It is eminently serviceable and may even be the best practicable. Nevertheless, whereas reading *The Spirit of Catholicism* in English is an intellectual pleasure, reading it in the original German is also a literary pleasure. It is so rich in happy phraseology, rugged strength, homely figurativeness that it again and again becomes literature as well as apologetics.

But even in translation Adam's style has notable virtues and characteristics. Theodore Maynard applies to the *Spirit of Catholicism* such words as "admirable spirit . . . erudition . . . profound, candid, and subtle . . . charming tenderness . . . approach decidedly new and stimulating . . ."³⁶ Other reviewers apply to the various books such phrases as "clear and luminous", "his depth never implies obscurity", though in *Christ and the Western World* one reviewer believes the thought "too darkened by the shadow of words".³⁷ They speak of his "gifted pen, keen mind", his "penetrating intellect and unusually clear mind", his "subtlety of reasoning and poetic insight".

29. *Love and Belief*, *Ibid.*, p. 60.

30. *Christ Our Brother*, *Ibid.*, p. 13.

31. John E. Wise, *Thought*, op. cit., p. 392.

32. *The Spirit of Catholicism*, *Ibid.*, p. 12.

33. *Christ Our Brother*, *Ibid.*, p. 77.

34. *Christ and the Western Mind*, *Ibid.*, p. 43.

35. "In the Jubilee Year," *Commonweal*, August 10, 1934, p. 361.

36. *Saturday Review of Literature*, August 31, 1929, p. 91.

37. *Thought*, December, 1930, p. 512.

His learning, piety, and tolerance are everywhere commended. Of *Christ Our Brother* the *London Times Literary Supplement* says, "Dr. Adam's book bears the authentic marks of true piety, charity, and learning" (June 4, '31, p. 438). His method is called a model to follow, "original in treatment", as showing a "genuine desire to move out of the rut", and as "psychological" in approach. His allusiveness, his "copious and apt use of Scripture" are generally remarked. His diction is declared to have "passages of real beauty", "popular rather than exotic", "rich in suggestion", and as the *Christian Century* says of *The Son of God*, containing "many precious gems of truth and beauty . . . finely conceived and no less finely expressed" (September 12, 1934).

All these descriptions are true. The present writer merely wants to add emphasis here and there to this picture of Adam's style. Scripture is woven in with an amazing aptness, frequency, and smoothness. This is also true of Adam's allusiveness. On two pages, for example, there were found allusions and references to Plato, Chesterton, Etienne Gilson, St. Albert, and Thomas Aquinas. Pliny, Tacitus, and Suetonius followed with Protestant writers on two other pages. Nietzsche, Spengler, and Schopenhauer occur and Dostoevski and countless others from all countries and ages. The allusiveness to Americans is, however, scant.

Adam's style is figurative, graphic, quotable. Discussing death, he says that fifty-seven die every minute, "so that every second sees a man die".³⁸ Inquiry into God, he says, is "not in the same category as that, say, into the structure of the ant or the habits of insects".³⁹ He has many fine analogies. The action of

grace, he says, is like a father lifting a child to pluck an apple.⁴⁰ He is quotable. "Truth is always simple and quiet, for it is always its own sufficient evidence," and "... laboured argument and ramshackle theory betray the hand of man" (*Ibid.*, p. 83). "I shall never reach man by starting from the earth; I must first reach heaven to find man through God."⁴¹ And finally, "... unless every errand-boy and every charwoman is for us our brother and sister, there can be no hope of a renewal, of a deepening and expansion of Catholic life in the world" (*Ibid.*, p. 79).

To style and thought, this writer says Amen.

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Best Sellers of 1944¹

By LEONARD N. WOLF, PH.D. and

EUGENE P. WILLGING, Co-Editors, *Best Sellers*,
University of Scranton, Scranton, Pennsylvania

The "best seller fever" continued its hold on the American reading public during 1944. Regardless of their quality many books attained this somewhat ephemeral rating, based not on intrinsic value but solely on their ability to attract readers. Last year was a prosperous year in the publishing business. As in any other line publishers and booksellers could sell almost anything they had. It is true that fewer titles achieved "best seller" status, as measured by their inclusion in the *New York Herald-Tribune* list, in 1944 than in 1943 but it is also true that in 1944 probably more copies of books were sold than in any of the recent years. Publishers were halted in their dizzy pyramiding of sales by two major factors—paper rationing and labor supply—which caused numerous postponements, a huge volume of back orders accompanied by a continuous rash of "out of stock" letters. However, even paper rationing had its brighter side since its restrictions prevented such books as *Forever Amber* and *The razor's edge* from causing the same amount of damage as they could have done under conditions of unlimited paper and labor supply.

For the benefit of those who are reading this annual article for the first time, we restate our objectives and methods.

1. A revised reprint of this article will be available around February first. Copies and prices may be had at that time upon application to *Best Sellers*, University of Scranton, Scranton 3, Pa.

The observations on the best-selling books of 1944 in this paper are based on the full reviews contained in the semi-monthly issues of *Best Sellers*, published at the Library of the University of Scranton, Scranton 3, Pa. The reviews in *Best Sellers* combine a full description of the content of the books, fiction and non-fiction, and conclude with a judgment on the moral value of the books as well as on their literary style and factual accuracy.

SUMMARY OF MORAL EVALUATIONS

Published in separate form, concurrently with the full review service of *Best Sellers*, is a single page list classifying approximately 100 titles in current demand. This list has been called the Abridged Series; it is also published semi-monthly. The four main moral classifications in that list form the basis of division of 1944's best sellers into the categories referred to in the SUMMARY section, page 113; these same numerals are appended to each title referred to in some of the succeeding paragraphs and in Appendix I. These four categories, which incidentally approximate those of the National Legion of Decency List of moving pictures (with which *Best Sellers* has no connection) are as follows:

- I. Suitable for Family Reading
- II. Suitable for Adults only because of
 - a. Content and style too advanced for adolescents

- b. Immoral incidents which do not invalidate the book as a whole
- III. Unsuitable for General Reading but permissible for Discriminating Adults
- IV. Not Recommended to Any Class of Reader.

Several objections may be raised to moral classification of titles as, for example, that the same book may have quite a different effect on two readers of different intellectual or emotional maturity. Quite true! Therefore, the publishers of *Best Sellers* have restricted the subscription of the Abridged Series to those who are receiving the Main Service in order to insure consultation of the full reviews. Secondly, there is a difficulty inherent in classifying rigidly a book which is reviewed by only one person, who, naturally, has a body of intellectual knowledge and emotional experiences more limited than the composite of all readers of the book in question.

THE "BIG" BEST SELLERS

If the morality of a nation, which is its best safeguard against war, is to be judged even partially by the books it is reading, we of the United States should consider placing some restraint upon our publishers unless they see fit to adopt the voluntary censorship adopted by the moving pictures through the Hays office. The ban on *Esquire* by Postmaster Walker may provide a precedent for keeping books such as *Forever Amber* out of the mails.

These are some of the big-selling titles of 1944 with sales figures as of the end of December, 1944. Moral classification is given after the publisher's name:

Fiction

- Asch. *The apostle*. Putnam. IV 557,724 printed.
- Cronin. *The green years*. Little. IIb 240,000 printed.

- De la Roche. *The building of Ialna*. Little. I 440,000 printed, including Literary Guild.
- Douglas. *The robe*. Houghton. IIb 1,200,000 printed, including Book Club.
- Goudge. *Green Dolphin Street*. Coward. IIb 500,000 printed, including Literary Guild.
- Graham. *Earth and high heaven*. Lippincott. IIb 500,000 printed, including Literary Guild.
- Maugham. *The razor's edge*. Doubleday. IV 217,000 sold by the publisher; 474,900 by the Literary Guild.
- Smith. *A tree grows in Brooklyn*. Harper. III 500,000 sold by Harper; 1,000,000 by Blakiston and the Dollar Book Club; 500,000 by Literary Guild.
Publishers' Weekly estimates about 2,500,000 copies in print—Dec. 23, 1944, p. 2369. This compares to about 3,000,000 for *Gone with the wind* (Macmillan, 1936).
- Smith, L. *Strange fruit*. Reynal. III 480,000 printed.
- Williams. *Leave her to heaven*. Houghton. IIb 175,000 printed by publisher; 489,000 additional for the Literary Guild.
- Winsor. *Forever amber*. Macmillan. IV 325,000 printed.

Six of these eleven titles are Literary Guild selections. This does not mean necessarily that their choices are more popular but rather that they are releasing sales figures more generally than the Book of the Month Club.

Non-Fiction

- Arno. *The man in the shower*. Simon. IV 75,000 printed.
- Baker. *The sad sack*. Simon. IIb 80,000 printed.
- Brooks. *The world of Washington Irving*. Dutton. IIa 65,000 printed by publisher in addition to unknown Book of the Month printing.
- Carlson. *Under cover*. Dutton. III 643,000 in print, Jan. 2, 1944 (sic!).
- Cerf. *Try and stop me*. Simon. IIb 90,000 printed.
- Durant. *Caesar and Christ*. Simon. IV 35,000 printed.
- Hope. *I never left home*. Simon. IIb 1,640,000 printed by Simon and by Home Guide; about 80% in paper edition.
- Lowell. *Dear sir*. Duell. IIb 138,500 printed.

Pyle. *Brave men*. Holt. IIa 229,725 printed by publisher and 415,000 by the Book of the Month.

Smith. *Lost in the horse latitudes*. Doubleday. IV 138,500 printed.

Snow. *People on our side*. Random. IIb 500,000 of trade and Book of the Month Club editions sold.

Tregaskis. *Invasion diary*. Random. I 40,000 sold.

Walker. *Dewey, an American of this century*. Whittlesey. IIa 55,000 printed.

Willkie. *An American program*. Simon. I 200,000 printed.

Two of these titles are Book of the Month Club selections with one additional a book dividend. As these figures show non-fiction sales generally are less than fiction. As to publishers of the eleven fiction titles Little, Brown and Houghton, Mifflin had two each while Putnam, Coward - McCann, Lippincott, Doubleday, Harper, Reynal and Macmillan had one each. Simon and Schuster had six of the non-fiction "big" best-sellers while Dutton and Random House had two each and Duell, Abingdon, Holt, Doubleday and Whittlesey followed with one each. All sales figures as given here must be interpreted cautiously as many publishers do not release sales figures. Secondly, books published toward the end of the year (e.g., *Forever Amber*) naturally show lower sales than those published in the first quarter (or in a preceding year as Douglas' *The robe* which has had twenty-six months since Oct. 1942 to build up its impressive total).

From a moral viewpoint (as expressed by *Best Sellers* reviewers) in fiction one title was suitable for the family, five for the average adult, two only for the most mature adults, with three receiving total condemnation. In non-fiction, three titles are for the family; eight for adults, either because of advanced style or moral con-

tent; one was recommended with reservations (i.e., only for special groups of adults) while three were condemned. Thus, the reading of at least nine of these "big" best-sellers in fiction and non-fiction might be a matter of conscience for a Catholic reader.

LITERARY DIETS AND DOCTORS

In a very real sense the editorial boards of the leading book clubs have been prescribing the literary diet of the nation, or at least, for over a million readers (Book of the Month Club and Literary Guild each claim about 600,000 members). Their choices have influenced not only the reading of their subscribers but also of the persons who prefer to buy their own books or to borrow them from a circulating library. Of the seventeen selections of the Book of the Month Club, McNichols' *Crazy weather*, Brogan's *American character* and Best's *Young'un* failed to achieve the prominence of a listing on the weekly list, "What America is Reading", of the Books section, *New York Herald-Tribune*. (The *Herald-Tribune* list is used throughout this survey as a better cross-section of national reading habits than the corresponding list of the *New York Times Book Review* which emphasizes regional sales.) The Brogan and Best books were published late in the year and may appear as 1945 best sellers. The twelve Literary Guild selections all attained the heights of a rating by the *Herald-Tribune Books*, although Feuchtwanger's *Simone* barely reached the bottom rung with a one-finger hold. The twelve selections of the Catholic Book Club showed no obvious influence on either the secular list of the *Herald-Tribune* or the Catholic list appearing as the monthly Book-log in the weekly *America*; a few of the C.B.C. selections

appeared as best-sellers but there are not enough to show a direct correlation.

This is the list of selections by the two leading secular book clubs and the Catholic Book Club:

BOOK OF THE MONTH CLUB SELECTIONS—1944

- January: Santayana. *Persons and places: Memories of childhood and youth.* Scribner. III
 Robertson. *The signpost.* Macmillan. III
 February: Heiden. *Der Fuehrer.* Houghton, Mifflin. IIa
 March: Bemelmans. *Now I lay me down to sleep.* Viking. IIb
 McNichols. *Crazy weather.* Macmillan. III
 April: Kossak. *Blessed are the meek.* Roy. I
 May: Bowen. *Yankee from Olympus: Justice Holmes and his family.* Little, Brown. III
 June: Bates. *Fair stood the wind for France.* Little, Brown. III
 Hall. *Lost Island.* Little, Brown. IIa
 July: Mann. *Joseph the Provider.* Knopf. III
 August: Welles. *The time for decision.* Harper. IIa
 September: Sharp. *Cluny Brown.* Little, Brown. IIb
 Shute. *Pastoral.* Morrow. I
 October: Brooks. *The world of Washington Irving.* Dutton. IIa
 November: Brogan. *The American character.* Knopf. I
 Best. *Young'un.* Macmillan. IIa
 December: Pyle. *Brave men.* Holt. IIa

LITERARY GUILD SELECTIONS—1944

- January: Bellaman. *Victoria Grandolet.* Simon & Schuster. IIa
 February: Walker. *Winter wheat.* Harcourt, Brace. IIb
 March: Morris. *Liberty Street.* Harper. IIb
 April: Baum. *Hotel Berlin '43.* Doubleday, Doran. III
 May: Maugham. *The razor's edge.* Doubleday, Doran. III
 June: Williams. *Leave her to heaven.* Houghton, Mifflin. IIb
 July: Landon. *Anna and the King of Siam.* John Day. IIa
 August: Feuchtwanger. *Simone.* Viking. IIa
 September: Goudge. *Green Dolphin Street.* Coward-McCann. IIb

- October: Graham. *Earth and high heaven.* Lippincott. IIb
 November: De la Roche. *The building of Jalna.* Little, Brown. I
 December: Spring. *Hard facts.* Viking. III

CATHOLIC BOOK CLUB SELECTIONS—1944

- January: Maguire. *The captain wears a cross.* Macmillan. I
 February: Obermeyer. *Golden apples of the sun.* Dutton. IIa
 March: Cianfarra. *The Vatican and the war.* Dutton. IIa
 April: Hughes. *The Church and the Liberal Society.* Princeton. IIa
 May: Kossak. *Blessed are the meek.* Roy. I
 June: No selection.
 July: Kempe. *The book of Margery Kempe.* Devin-Adair. IIa
 August: Adams. *We stood alone.* Longmans. I
 September: Raymond. *Three religious rebels.* Kenedy. I
 October: Kernan. *Now with the morning star.* Scribner. IIa
 November: Hinkson. *Golden rose.* Knopf. IIa
 December: Lavery. *No more than human.* Longmans. I

Evaluating these selections by moral criteria, we find that eleven of the Book of the Month selections (six in fiction, five in non-fiction) were suitable for general adult reading while six (four novels and two titles of non-fiction) were considered suitable only for mature and special classes of adults. There were only three titles (two fiction, one non-fiction) considered suitable for family reading. This is quite a change from the 1943 selections when six of nineteen choices were rated as "family" books while only two were recommended for "mature" adults.

Of the twelve Literary Guild selections, nine were listed as suitable adult reading (including two titles for "family" reading) while two were considered suitable only for "mature" readers and one title

received a complete condemnation. This, for the Literary Guild, is a slight improvement over the 1943 evaluations when 25% of its selections were considered "suitable only for mature adults or not recommended".

Technically, each club leaves to its members some margin of choice and an opportunity to order at a later time selections so as to benefit from dividends and special prices. Yet, a great deal of social pressure exists to force immediate choice of the editors' selections, the old idea of "keeping up with the (literary) Joneses". It is so important to have the latest book club selection between the book-ends when the bridge club members arrive. For the Catholic this presents a problem since invariably the book clubs' editors choose the selections before publication date and thus the Catholic reviewer has no opportunity of apprising his readers in advance of the moral suitability of particular titles. Until this condition is altered by giving Catholic reviewers access to advance proofs of book club selections we think it advisable that Catholics withhold their choice of selections until they can obtain some authoritative Catholic review.

It is not within the scope of this survey article to evaluate the literary or factual worth of the book clubs' selections. In general, we advance the opinion that the average book club selection is only of temporary value or interest. The larger their memberships, the more likely is this to be true on the "common denominator" principle. The Catholic Book Club selections are difficult to evaluate since they range from the most popularly written types of fiction and biography (e.g., *No more than human*) to the most advanced treatises (e.g., *Church and the liberal society* and *The book of Margery Kempe*).

SUBJECT ANALYSIS OF 1944'S BEST SELLERS

Non-Fiction

In non-fiction World War II, directly or indirectly, formed the subject of about half of the year's list. There were, of course, the stories of the correspondents of which the best were probably Ingersoll's *Battle is the pay-off*, Pyle's *Brave men* and Wertenbaker's *Invasion*. There were the accounts by Joe Brown and Bob Hope and other entertainers who went to visit *Your kids and mine*. There were the atlases to aid the stay-by-the-radio analysts. There were the peace plans of Adler, Becker, Nizer, Schultz, Welles, et al. For the boys in the trenches, and often originating there, were the cartoon books, such as Baker's *Sad sack*, St. George's *C/o Postmaster*, and others of lesser importance by Arno, Craven, and Darrow. For the home front were the humorous titles by Lowell, Cerf and others. The "screwball's Boswell", H. Allen Smith, continued his ill-deserved popularity with two titles.

On the home front the planners came out with their prognoses of how *The rest of your life* would be in an *America unlimited* following an *American program*. The election brought out titles dealing with "*That man in the White House*" as well as on Dewey, the man who would have liked to be there. And American history had its representatives in the indefatigable Beards' *Basic history of the U. S.*, the final volume of Lee's *lieutenants* and the observations of the French littérateur Maurois on *The miracle of America*. In the genre of biography were found such outstanding works as Heiden's on *Der Fuehrer*, Holt on *George Washington Carver* and Krutch on *Samuel*.

Johnson. The analyses of American geography and history, embodied in the series on the lakes and rivers, continued with outstanding titles by Footner, Landon, Nute and Quaife. In literary history *The world of Washington Irving* continued successfully the life work of Van Wyck Brooks. Generally these titles were morally acceptable as well as factually worthwhile; the major class to which moral exceptions would be taken are to the cartoon books and the so-called humorous titles by H. Allen Smith whose *Lost in the horse latitudes* contained some of the most vile and slanderous stories of the year. A few titles of Catholic interest and authorship appeared on the list of the *Herald-Tribune*, e.g., *Amen, amen*, and *Men of Maryknoll*.

Fiction

As in non-fiction, World War II came into greater prominence last year in the fiction lists. Hersey's *Bell for Adano* as well as Brown's *Walk in the sun* were deservedly popular with adults but most of the other war-background titles were weak in construction and content. An outstanding Catholic title *Now with the morning star*, published by Scribner's, failed to receive due recognition. Historical fiction continued to be very popular. *Bedford Village*, the second volume of Hervey Allen's six volume set, attained a high place. Howard Fast continued his career with *Freedom Road* while *Forever Amber* authored by beautiful Kathleen Winsor attained the heights of best-sellerdom despite the heaviest barrage of adverse criticism (both literary and moral) ever blasted forth. (A good review may sell a good book; for a vile book nothing is needed.) The religious-historical novels were represented by two Asch interpretations of *The Nazarene* and *The apostle*,

Robinson's *Ten commandments*, Mann's *Joseph the provider* and Wilson's *The brother* (none of which deserve attention by Catholic readers), as well as Douglas' *The robe* and Kossak's *Blessed are the meek*, which are more suitable for the Catholic adult.

Then there were the general romantic tales (*Dragonwyck*, et al), the stories of American life (e.g., Flavin's *Journey in the dark* and *So little time*), animal tales (*Lassie come home*; *Thunderhead*), a controversial story on Negro-white relationships (*Strange fruit*), a psychological novel (*The lost weekend*), and the usual stories of adventure and mystery of which the latter were often exceptionally fine, such as *All over but the shooting*, yet which often failed to attain best-sellerdom.

SUMMARY

1. The moral analysis of the 1944 best sellers, based on the reviews in the semi-monthly *Best Sellers*, showed some changes from the percentages in 1943, namely, in 1944 only 16.3% of fiction titles were considered "family" reading (against a figure of 20% in 1943) while 51 of the 86 titles reviewed were considered suitable for general adult reading, a percentage of 59.3%. In 1943 there were 56 out of 106 titles reviewed classified in the adult category, giving a percentage of 52.8%. The 1944 drop in family novels, then, is somewhat balanced by the increased number of adult novels. Fewer novels in 1944 received the *Best Sellers* classification of "suitable for mature adults or special classes of readers"; undoubtedly many of these novels were assigned to IIb class, thus accounting for the percentage increase.

2. If one added stylistic excellence and factual worth to the prime criterion

MORAL SUMMARY OF 1943 AND 1944 BEST SELLERS
ON NEW YORK HERALD-TRIBUNE LISTS

	1943		T.	1944		T.
	Fiction	Non-Fiction		Fiction	Non-Fiction	
I	18	33	51	14	31	45
IIa	11	46	57	7	39	46
IIb	27	13	40	30	17	47
III	33	9	42	23	9	32
IV	17	4	21	12	7	19
Not Reviewed in <i>Best Sellers</i> and not evaluated in this survey	3	19	22	4	16	20
	109	124	233	90	119	209

of morality one could say that less than 10% of these best sellers deserve reading.

3. Conversely, many worthwhile books never achieve a rating on the *Herald-Tribune* list, e.g., Lilienthal's *TVA*, Hayek's *Road to serfdom*, Kernan's *Now with the morning star*, etc.

4. The so-called trend toward "religious" novels is over-emphasized. Many of the stories so labeled are, on the contrary, irreligious, e.g., *The razor's edge*, *The ten commandments*, *The apostle*, *The way*, *The brother*, etc.

5. The book clubs are enjoying boom years. The Book of the Month Club and the Literary Guild claim about 600,000 members apiece. Since the book club selections are often of doubtful value, Catholics should be cautious in accepting the selections of their editors.

6. There is a noticeable concentration of best selling titles in the hands of a few firms. Over 60% (124 out of 209 titles)

were published by eleven firms. Of the total 209 titles on the 1944 list, only forty-three publishers are represented. One firm, Doubleday, Doran, had 26 of 1944's best sellers.

APPENDIX I

Note: Roman numerals (e.g., IIa) refer to headings of classes mentioned under MORAL SUMMARY, pages 107-8. Volume and page references are to *Best Sellers*.

Titles of Fiction on New York Herald-Tribune Books List in 1944

Abbreviation:

BM—Book of the Month Club Selection.

CB—Catholic Book Club Selection.

LG—Literary Guild Selection.

PW—Publishers' Weekly.

*Title attained place among top ten at some time during 1944.

Adams. *Canal town*. Random. 4:23. III

*Allen. *Bedford Village*. Farrar. 4:2. IIb

*Asch. *The apostle*. Putnam. 3:83. IV

(557,724 printed—P.W. Dec. 2, 1944)

Asch. *The Nazarene*. Putnam. (Not reviewed in *Best Sellers*).

(473,684 printed—P.W. Dec. 2, 1944)

- Barrett. *Sun in their eyes*. Bobbs-Merrill. 4:149. Ilb
- *Bates. *Fair stood the wind for France*. Little. 4:46. III
(BM—June, 1944)
- *Baum. *Hotel Berlin '43*. Doubleday. 4:23 III
(LG—Apr. 1944)
- *Baum. *The weeping wood*. Doubleday. 3:122. IV
Bayliss. *The Bolinvars*. Holt. 4:155. Ilb
- *Bellaman. *Victoria Grandolet*. Simon. 3:141. IIa
(LG—Jan. 1944)
- *Bemelmans. *Now I lay me down to sleep*. Viking. 3:172. Ilb
(BM—Mar. 1944)
- *Berlin. *Land I have chosen*. Doubleday. 4:81. I
- *Boyle. *Avalanche*. Simon. 3:149. I
Bristow. *Tomorrow is forever*. Crowell. 3:156. I
- *Bromfield. *What became of Anna Bolton?* Harper. 4:14. Ilb
- *Brown. *A walk in the sun*. Knopf. 4:60. Ilb
- *Buck. *The promise*. Day. 3:121. Ilb
- *Caldwell. *Final hour*. Scribner. 4:19. IV
- *Chase. *In bed we cry*. Doubleday. 3:128. IV
- *Costain. *Ride with me*. Doubleday. 4:95. III
(240,000 printed—P.W. Dec. 9, 1944)
- *Davenport. *The valley of decision*. Scribner. 2:200. IV
- *De la Roche. *The building of Jalna*. Little. 4:134. I
(440,000 printed, including book club—P.W. Dec. 2, 1944)
(LG—Nov. 1944)
- *Douglas. *The robe*. Houghton. 2:186. Ilb
(1,005,392, bookstore sale. Peoples' Book Club, 200,000. Canadian sale, 60,000. P.W. Oct. 21, 1944.)
- Du Maurier. *Hungry Hill*. Doubleday. 3:40. III
- Fast. *Freedom road*. Duell. 4:87. Ilb
- Feuchtwanger. *Simone*. Viking. 4:74. IIa
(LG—Aug. 1944)
- *Flavin. *Journey in the dark*. Harper. 3:106. Ilb
(Harper Prize Novel, 1943-1944)
- Fletcher. *Lusty wind for Carolina*. Bobbs. 4:163. Ilb
- Gaither. *The red cock crows*. Macmillan. 4:51. IIa
- Gellhorn. *Liana*. Scribner. 3:164. III
- *Goudge. *Green Dolphin Street*. Coward-McCann. 4:101. Ilb
(M.G.M. \$125,000 movie award novel. 500,000 printed—P.W. Oct. 21, 1944.)
(LG—Sept. 1944)
- *Graham. *Earth and high heaven*. Lippincott. 4:119. Ilb
(125,000 printed for general sale; 400,000 for Literary Guild. P.W. Oct. 28 and Nov. 18, 1944.)
(LG—Oct. 1944)
- Hall. *Lost Island*. Little. 4:45. IIa
(BM—June, 1944)
- *Halsey. *Some of my best friends are soldiers*. Simon. 4:115. Ilb
(90,000 printed—P.W. Dec. 9, 1944)
- *Hersey. *A bell for Adano*. Knopf. 3:165. Ilb
- Hurst. *Hallelujah*. Harper. 3:148. IV
- *Huxley. *Time must have a stop*. Harper. 4:86. III
- *Jackson. *The lost weekend*. Farrar. 3:167. III
- *Janeway. *The Walsh girls*. Doubleday. 3:122. Ilb
- *Keyes. *Also the hills*. Messner. 3:143. Ilb
- Knight. *Lassie come home*. Winston. 4:9. I
- *Kossak. *Blessed are the meek*. Roy. 3:171. I
(BM—Apr. 1944)
- Lasswell. *High time*. Houghton. 4:139. Ilb
- *Lincoln. *The Bradshaws of Harniss*. Appleton. 3:129. I
- *Lindbergh. *The steep ascent*. Harcourt. 4:9. IIa
- *Llewellyn. *None but the lonely heart*. Macmillan. 3:84. III
- *MacInnes. *While still we live*. Little. 4:29. I
- Madariaga. *Heart of jade*. Creative. 4:4. III
- Mally. *The mocking bird is singing*. Holt. 4:25. III
- *Mann. *Joseph the provider*. Knopf. 4:59; 4:135. III
(BM—July, 1944)
- *Marquand. *So little time*. Little. 3:59. Ilb
(BM—Sept. 1943)
- *Maugham. *The razor's edge*. Doubleday. 4:22. IV
(217,000 sold, excluding Literary Guild—P.W. Oct. 21, 1944)
(LG—May, 1944)
- Miller. *Lebanon*. Doubleday. 4:71. Ilb
- Morris. *Liberty Street*. Harper. 3:159. Ilb
(LG—Mar. 1944)
- Norris. *Flint*. Doubleday. 3:146. IIa
- Ogilvie. *High tide at noon*. Crowell. 4:33. Ilb

- *O'Hara. *Thunderhead*. Lippincott. 3:103. I
 *Pennell. *The history of Rome Hanks*. Scribner. 4:79. II
 Plummer. *The collected works of Mrs. Peter Willoughby*. Little. 4:8. I
 Porter. *The leaning tower and other stories*. Harcourt. 4:124. IIb
 Rand. *The fountainhead*. Bobbs-Merrill. 3:25. III
 *Robertson. *The signpost*. Macmillan. 3:139. III
 (BM—Jan. 1944)
 *Robinson. *The ten commandments*. Simon. 3:143. III
 Ronald. *The night is ending*. Lippincott. 4:39. IIb
 Runbeck. *Time for each other*. Appleton. 4:96. I
 *Seton. *Dragonwyck*. Houghton. 3:160. IIa
 *Sharp. *Cluny Brown*. Little. 4:86. IIb
 (BM—Sept. 1944)
 *Shute. *Pastoral*. Morrow. 4:85. I
 (54,000 printed, excluding Book of the Month—P.W. Dec. 9, 1944)
 (BM—Sept. 1944)
 *Sinclair. *Presidential agent*. Viking. 4:60. III
 Skidmore. *Valley of the sky*. Houghton. 4:127. III
 *Smith, B. *A tree grows in Brooklyn*. Harper. 3:60. III
 (LG—Sept. 1943)
 *Smith, L. *Strange fruit*. Reynal. 4:11. III
 Spring. *Hard facts*. Viking. 4:142. III
 (LG—Dec. 1944)
 Stafford. *Boston adventure*. Harcourt. 4:140. IIb
 *Stone. *Immortal wife*. Doubleday. 4:121. I
 Street. *By valour and arms*. Dial. 4:137. IV
 (60,000 printed—P.W. Oct. 21, 1944)
 *Stuart. *Taps for Private Tussie*. Dutton. 3:125. IIb
 (BM—Dec. 1943)
 Tamas. *Students of Spalato*. Dutton. (Not reviewed in Best Sellers.)
 Thirkell. *Growing up*. Knopf. (Not reviewed in Best Sellers.)
 Walker. *Winter wheat*. Harcourt. 3:153. IIb
 (LG—Nov. 1943)
 *Weston. *Indigo*. Scribner. 3:108. III
 (LG—Nov. 1943)
 White. *Peter Domanig*. Bobbs. 4:50. III
 Wilder. *Mr. G strings along*. Putnam. (Not reviewed in Best Sellers.)
 Wilkins. *Being met together*. Macmillan. 4:93. IV

- *Williams. *Leave her to heaven*. Houghton. 4:53. IIb
 (175,000 printed—P.W. Oct. 21, 1944)
 (LG—June, 1944)
 Wilson. *The brother*. Westminster. 4:55. IV
 *Winsor. *Forever Amber*. Macmillan. 4:126. IV
 (About 325,000 printed—P.W. Dec. 2, 1944)
 Wise & Fraser. *Great tales of terror and the supernatural*. Random. 4:64. I
 Wylie. *Night unto night*. Farrar. 3:113. IV

Titles of Non-Fiction on New York Herald-Tribune Books List in 1944

- Adamic. *My native land*. Harper. 3:126. III
 Adler. *How to think about war and peace*. Simon. 3:160. III
 Andrews. *Social planning for frontier thinkers*. Smith. (Not reviewed in Best Sellers.)
 Andrews. *Under a lucky star*. Viking. 3:100. IIa
 *Arno. *The man in the shower*. Simon. 4:175. IV
 (75,000 printed—P.W. Oct. 21, 1944)
 Baker. *The sad sack*. Simon. 4:114. IIb
 (80,000 printed—P.W. Oct. 21, 1944)
 *Beard, C. & M. *Basic history of the U. S.* New Home Library. 4:73. IIa
 *Beard, C. *The republic*. Viking. 3:115. IIa
 Becker. *How new will the better world be?* Knopf. 4:28. I
 Benét. *America*. Farrar. 4:75. I
 *Bodmer. *The loom of language*. Norton. 4:38. IIa
 Bonsal. *Unfinished business*. Doubleday. 4:33. I
 *Botkin. *Treasury of American folklore*. Crown. 4:37. IIb
 *Bowen. *Yankee from Olympus*. Little. 4:21. III
 (BM—May, 1944)
 *Brooks. *The world of Washington Irving*. Dutton. 4:109. IIa
 (BM—Oct. 1944. 65,000 printed, above book club—P.W. Nov. 11, 1944)
 Brown, Joe. *Your kids and mine*. Doubleday. 4:146. I
 *Brown, J. M. *To all hands*. Whittlesey. 3:138. IIb
 Burnett (ed.) *The seas of God*. Lippincott. 4:1. IV
 *Carlson. *Under cover*. Dutton. 3:62. III
 *Cerf. *Try and stop me*. Simon. 4:147. IIb
 (90,000 printed—P.W. Dec. 9, 1944)

- *Cherne. *The rest of your life*. Doubleday. 4:75. IIa
- Clapper. *Watching the world, 1934-1944*. Whitteley. 4:71. IIa
- Clark. *The Chiangs of China*. Abingdon. 4:7. I
- Constantino. *Amen, Amen*. Harper. (Not reviewed in *Best Sellers*.)
- Crane (ed.) *Gallery of great paintings*. Crown. (Not reviewed in *Best Sellers*.)
- Craven (ed.) *Cartoon cavalcade*. Simon. 3:142. IIb
- *Curie. *Journey among warriors*. Doubleday. 3:25. I
- Darrow. *You're sitting on my eyelashes*. Random. 3:120. IIb
- Davenport. *My country*. Simon. 4:144. IIa
- Dos Passos. *State of the nation*. Houghton. (Not reviewed in *Best Sellers*.)
- Durant. *Caesar and Christ*. Simon. 4:143. IV (35,000 printed—P.W. Oct. 14, 1944)
- Duranty. *U.S.S.R.* Lippincott. 4:35. IIa
- Ethridge. *This little pig stayed home*. Vanguard. 4:44. IIb
- *Faulkner. *Plowman's folly*. Oklahoma U. 4:31. IIa
- Flynn. *As we go marching*. Doubleday. 4:5. IIa
- Footner. *Rivers of the Eastern shore*. Farrar. (Not reviewed in *Best Sellers*.)
- Fosdick. *A great time to be alive*. Harper. 4:172. IV
- Fosdick. *On being a real person*. Harper. 2:293. IIa
- *Fowler. *Good night, sweet prince*. Viking. 3:158. IIb
- *Fredborg. *Behind the steel wall*. Viking. 3:154. IIa
- *Freeman. *Lee's lieutenants, v. III*. Scribner. 4:117. IIa
- Geraud. *Grave diggers of France*. Doubleday. 4:128. IIa
- Graham. *McGraw of the Giants*. (Not reviewed in *Best Sellers*.)
- *Grew. *Ten years in Japan*. Simon. 4:46. IIa
- *Gunther. *D-Day*. Harper. 4:10. IIa
- Hahn. *China to me*. Doubleday. I
- Harding. *Lost waltz*. Bobbs. 4:179. I
- Harrison. *Look at the world*. 4:80. I
- Hathaway. *The little locksmith*. Coward. 3:107. III (BM—Nov. 1943)
- Hecht. *A guide for the bedevilled*. Scribner. 4:5. III
- *Heiden. *Der Fuehrer: Hitler's rise to power*. Houghton. 3:151. IIa (BM—Feb. 1944)
- Helmericks. *We live in Alaska*. Little. 4:107. IIa
- *Hoke. *Black mail*. Reader's Book Service. 4:94. IIa
- Holt. *George Washington Carver*. Doubleday. 3:24. I
- *Hope. *I never left home*. Simon. 4:56. IIb (1,640,000 printed between Simon and Home Guide—P.W. Oct. 21, 1944)
- Hutchinson. *From victory to peace*. Willett. (Not reviewed in *Best Sellers*.)
- Ingersoll. *The battle is the pay-off*. Harcourt. 3:76. IIb (BM—Nov. 1943)
- Johnson. *Woodrow Wilson*. Harper. 4:89. I
- *Johnston. *America unlimited*. Doubleday. 4:40. I
- Jones. *Abundant living*. Abingdon. (Not reviewed in *Best Sellers*.)
- Jones. *The Christ of the American road*. Abingdon. 4:97. III
- Josephs. *Argentine diary*. Random. 4:97. III
- Keller-Berger. *Men of Maryknoll*. Scribner. 4:41. I
- Kimbrough. *How dear to my heart*. Dodd. 4:154. I
- *Kimbrough. *We followed our hearts to Hollywood*. Dodd. 3:123. I
- Kingdon. *"That man in the White House"*. Arco. 4:42. IIa
- Krutch. *Samuel Johnson*. Holt. 4:154. IIa
- Landon, F. *Lake Huron*. Bobbs. 4:34. I
- *Landon, M. *Anna and the King of Siam*. Day. 4:92. I (LG—July, 1944)
- *Lin Yu'tang. *Between tears and laughter*. Day. 3:53. IIa
- *Lippmann. *U. S. war aims*. Little. 4:70. IIa
- *Lowell. *Dear sir*. Duell. 4:160. IIb (138,500 printed—P.W. Nov. 4, 1944)
- McCormick. *Little coquette*. Houghton. 4:131. IV
- MacMurray. *Out on a limbo*. Lippincott. (Not reviewed in *Best Sellers*.)
- McVicker. *The queen was in the kitchen*. Whitteley. 4:28. I
- Maurois. *The miracle of America*. Harper. 4:65. I
- *Michelson. *The ghost talks*. Putnam. 4:49. I

- Moore. *You're only human once*. Doubleday. 4:20. IIa
- Nizer. *What to do with Germany*. 3:162. IIa
- Nute. *Lake Superior*. Bobbs. 4:160. I
- Parker. *Dorothy Parker*. Viking. 4:66. IIa
- Parsons. *The gay illiterate*. Doubleday. 3:148. IIa
- Porter. *Papa was a preacher*. Abingdon. 4:139. I
- *Pyle. *Brave men*. Holt. 4:153. IIa
(BM—Dec. 1944. 229,725 printed, plus 415,000 for the Book of the Month Club—P.W. Dec. 9, 1944)
- *Pyle. *Here is your war*. Holt. 3:107. I
- Quaife. *Lake Michigan*. Bobbs. 4:115. I
- *Reynolds. *The curtain rises*. Random. 4:17. IIa
- Robsjohn-Gibbings. *Good-bye Mr. Chippendale*. Knopf. 4:43. IIb
- Rolo. *Wingate's raiders*. Viking. 4:13. I
- Rombauer. *The joy of cooking*. Bobbs. (Not reviewed in Best Sellers.)
- Runbeck. *The great answer*. Houghton. (Not reviewed in Best Sellers.)
- *St. George. *C/o Postmaster*. Crowell. 3:92. IIb
(BM—Oct. 1943)
- *Santayana. *Persons and places*. Scribner. 3:155. III
(BM—Jan. 1944)
- Schultz. *Germany will try it again*. Reynal. 4:6. IIa
- *Scott. *God is my co-pilot*. Scribner. 3:68. IIb
- *Seagrave. *Burma surgeon*. Norton. 3:67. IIa
- *Sherrod. *Tarawa*. Duell. 4:29. IIb
- *Shiber. *Paris underground*. Scribner. 3:86. I
(BM—Oct. 1943)
- Smith. *Life in a putty knife factory*. Doubleday. 3:4. IV
- *Smith. *Lost in the horse latitudes*. Doubleday. 4:136. IV
- *Snow. *People on our side*. Random. 4:103. IIb
(500,000 of the Book of the Month and trade edition sold—P.W. Oct. 21, 1944)
- Sockman. *Date with destiny*. Abingdon. (Not reviewed in Best Sellers.)
- Stettinius. *Lend-lease, weapon for victory*. Macmillan. 3:157. IIa
- *Stowe. *They shall not sleep*. Knopf. 3:161. IIa
- Sues. *Shark's fins and millet*. Little. (Not reviewed in Best Sellers.)
- *Target: Germany. Simon. 3:143. I
- *Train. *Yankee lawyer*. Scribner. 3:81. I
- Treanor. *One damn thing after another*. Doubleday. 4:126. IIa
- *Tregaskis. *Invasion diary*. Random. 4:79. I
- Van Paassen. *The forgotten ally*. Dial. 3:118. IIa
- Walker. *Dewey; an American of this century*. Whittlesey. 4:123. IIa
(55,000 printed—P.W. Oct. 28, 1944)
- *War atlas for Americans. Simon. 4:67. I
- Weatherhead. *In quest of a kingdom*. Abingdon. (Not reviewed in Best Sellers.)
- *Welles. *The time for decision*. Harper. 4:77. IIa
(\$36,000 spent for advertising—P.W. Oct. 7, 1944)
(BM—Aug. 1944)
- Wertenbaker. *Invasion*. Appleton. 4:102. IIa
- *Willkie. *An American program*. Simon. 4:167. I
(200,000 printed—P.W. Oct. 21, 1944)
- *Woolcott. *The letters*. Viking. 4:94. IIa
- *Woolcott. *Long, long ago*. Viking. 3:117. I
(LG—Dec. 1943)

APPENDIX II

**Catholic Best Sellers as Compiled from
the Monthly Book-Log of America,
Jan. 15, 1944—Dec. 23, 1944**

Abbreviation:

CB—Catholic Book Club Selection.

**Title attained place among top five some time during 1944.

Adams. *We stood alone*. Longmans. (CB—Aug. 1944)**Burton. *No shadow of turning*. Longmans.**Cianfarra. *The Vatican and the war*. Dutton. (CB—Mar. 1944)**Constantino. *Amen, Amen*. Harper.Doherty. *Splendor of sorrow*. Sheed.**Edwards. *White fire*. Bruce.**Gonella. *A world to reconstruct*. Bruce.Grant. *Margaret Brent, adventurer*. Longmans.**Grant. *What other answer*. Bruce.**Houselander. *The reed of God*. Sheed.**Hyland. *The dove flies south*. Bruce.**Keller-Berger. *Men of Maryknoll*. Scribner.

(Reprinted by Grosset in a \$1.00 edition late in 1944)

Knox (tr.). *The New Testament*. Sheed.**Kossak. *Blessed are the meek*. Roy. (CB—May, 1944. Book of the Month Club selection, Apr. 1944.)

(Continued on page 125)

The Talbot Collection

By REVEREND GERARD F. YATES, S.J.,
Director of Libraries, Georgetown University,
Washington, D. C.

Georgetown University has recently become custodian of a uniquely interesting collection of Catholic documents known as the Talbot Collection, gathered together by Miss Mary A. Benjamin of New York, the director of the celebrated Walter R. Benjamin Autograph firm. Impressed with the idea that letters and other writings of the saints are almost in the category of relics, Miss Benjamin undertook to form her own collection, including such autographs of the saints as she could discover as well as those of prominent Catholics both lay and religious. She named the collection in honor of the Reverend Francis X Talbot, S.J., the well-known publicist, whose contributions to Catholic literature in this country both as writer and critic have been so notable. Father Talbot recently retired from the editorship of the Catholic weekly, *America*, to devote himself to the newly founded Institute of Social Order. He is soon to take up residence at Georgetown, and this circumstance was influential in Miss Benjamin's decision to present her collection to the oldest Catholic university in the United States. Her choice was also prompted by the memory of a half-brother who had attended Georgetown and died during his student days; while the fact that the University already had a large store of archival materials and manuscripts was likewise an important consideration.¹ The

Talbot Collection will be in good company, so to speak, with the original manuscript of *Tom Sawyer*, the Crewe Manuscript of Sheridan's *The Rival*, holographs of the "Star Spangled Banner", "Maryland, My Maryland", and letters of George Washington, Thomas Jefferson, Archbishop John Carroll and many others.

The Talbot Collection consists at present of some sixty-two items. The one that Georgetown prizes most highly is a document in Latin signed by Saint Ignatius Loyola, founder of the Society of Jesus, believed to be the only Ignatian autograph in the United States. It is a commission to Father Leonard Kessel, S.J., conferring on him all the privileges and faculties given to the Founder by the Apostolic See, for the furtherance of his missionary activities. The document is printed in *Monumenta Ignatiana*, ser. I, vol. III, p. 478, with a note to the effect that it had been the possession of one Hermann Mylius of Köln, three centuries ago. This man's father had received it from a Lutheran family of the same city in exchange for an autograph of Luther. Father Leonard Kessel, a Belgian, was one of that early band of great Jesuit missionaries who contributed so much to saving

1. Catholic libraries in particular will be interested to note that a checklist of materials in the Georgetown Archives will be published soon.

western Germany and the Rhineland from the Reformation.

Saint Ignatius, however, is not the only religious founder represented in the Talbot Collection. There is a document signed by Saint Vincent de Paul, founder of the Congregation of the Mission and of the Sisters of Charity. It is dated St. Lazare, December 3, 1656, and is an acknowledgment of the receipt of certain papers and titles to property given to the Congregation by some members of the French nobility. The document is written in old French with characteristic abbreviations.

The Passionist Order is represented by an autograph letter of Saint Paul of the Cross, its venerated founder. The letter, dated March 28, 1752, directs two of his brethren to proceed to a new community. The letter is written in Italian; and it may be consoling to view such striking evidence that there is no correlation between sanctity and legible hand-writing. There is likewise a small piece of the habit of Saint John Baptist de la Salle mounted on a leaflet which bears an engraved portrait of the saint—an authenticated relic.

Two other great saints of Italy are also included in the collection, both of them mighty forces in the Counter-Reformation, Charles Borromeo, Cardinal and Archbishop of Milan, and Robert Bellarmine, the distinguished Jesuit controversialist, Archbishop of Capua, Cardinal and Doctor of the Church. Saint Charles' letter, addressed to the Regent of Flanders, asking her permission for a certain theologian, Dr. Lindano, to proceed to the Council of Trent, is dated May 1, 1561. Saint Robert Bellarmine writes with characteristic tact and gentleness to an archbishop, informing the illustrious prelate that a relative of his is in jail in Florence and begging his intercession.

There are several Newman items of great interest, including three personal letters. Of more curious significance than these, however, is a letter of the Cardinal's brother, Francis William Newman, who had been invited to write about the lately deceased churchman. The invitation was refused in the following terms

"... What I have to write about my late brother will disappoint any Review. He has vanished for fifty years from public knowledge, and men younger than sixty are generally deluded concerning his conduct within the Anglican Church, perhaps as to his whole character."

This letter, dated October 29, 1890, was written on a leaflet in which two of Newman's poems of 1832 are printed—"Private Judgment" and "Persecution". Francis Newman calls his correspondent's attention to them and to his own comments thereon (it may be recalled that both poems contain references to the Blessed Mother):

"Since 1824 I had steadily discerned the proclivity of my brother to 'Invocation of the Virgin'. From the date of these hymns I consider him to be a full-blown Romanist."²

Several items in the collection are of special interest to American Catholics. There is, for example, a letter of General Stephen Moylan (1737-1811), the only Catholic on Washington's staff, to Robert Morris dated from "Head Quarters near White Plains", in November, 1776. There is a note of almost contemporary feeling in the lines:

"I should have the most consummate vanity indeed was I to think myself possessed of all the qualifications necessary for the post my ambition aspired to by my Letter to Congress, yet when I look about me & see those who have arrived to that Honorable Station, indeed it is not vanity in my saying I could fulfill the duties of it at Least as well as the

2. John Henry Newman resigned the vicarage of Saint Mary's on September 18, 1843, and was received into the Catholic Church on October 9, 1845.

major part of them, & with you I join, in saying I am sorry it is the case, but where is the remedy? In a country young at War, young & inexperienced officers must be appointed, if they are possessed of courage & a tolerable understanding, they will by application & practice make up for what they are deficient in. For my own part I see little prospect for me but in the Military Line, every other department is full."

He is optimistic—too much so, as events were to prove—regarding the forthcoming campaign:

"I think you may be assured that we shall Baffle the enemy this Campaign, if they continue their (to appearance) fixt plan of getting upon our flanks. We are strongly posted & have the Command of the passes to the Highlands & Connecticut. I do not think Mr. Howe will attempt to force us from our present posts. They paid dear for the Last Hill they got, which makes them Cautious. A very little time must determine what they mean to do."

At the time of this letter Moylan was Quartermaster General of the Army.

The Carroll family of Maryland deserved well of both Church and State. From it came the Father of the American Hierarchy, Archbishop John Carroll, the founder of Georgetown. Charles Carroll of Carrollton was a generous benefactor of the Church throughout his life, as the original of a deed in the Talbot Collection gives evidence. It is an agreement to give two acres of woodland on Carrollton Manor for the building of a Catholic Church. The date is September 30, 1814.

The florid language of a century ago may prompt a smile as one reads a letter of Bishop John Hughes of New York telling of a missionary voyage of Father de Smet, the intrepid Belgian Jesuit.

"I received the other day a letter from our estimable friend Father De Smet dated Antwerp, Dec. the 10th in which he advised me that he was upon the point of setting out for his dear Flatheads by a navigation around

Cape Horn to Columbia River. He is accompanied by quite a Colony of missionaries and religious ladies with all the implements of husbandry, housewifery, seeds & plants which may be most necessary for the apprenticeship of Civilization through which he hopes to be able to guide his Neophytes. Is it not a most interesting & almost romantic enterprise?"

One of the most interesting series in the collection relates to Father Joseph Damien, the Apostle of the lepers at Molokai, Hawaii. It begins with a letter of six lines to the physician, Dr. Swift, asking him to come as soon as possible and signed, "Your weak friend, J. Damien". Reading it one can feel the tense anxiety of the saintly priest's last illness. There follow six items—notes of the doctor and attendants, directions as to treatments, records of temperature, pulse, and other symptoms. The unemotional, clinical language is poignantly moving to anyone who is familiar with the heroic life of this great missionary.

Fourteen letters of Mother Mary Alphonsa (Rose Hawthorne) Lathrop, convert daughter of Nathaniel Hawthorne and founder of Rosary Hill Home for Incurables are likewise of interest to American Catholics. Most of these were written before the death of her husband and are difficult to date. They include notes to editors regarding the publication of her poems, informal invitations to dinner parties, an intriguing reference to a "German" at Newport, and finally a letter of thanks to the editor of the *North American Review* for the gift of a picture of Pope Pius X written from Rosary Hill Home and dated May 27, 1907.

An individual list and description of all the items in the collection would take more space than even these hospitable columns can allow. But mention must

(Continued on page 125)

News and Notes

MICHIGAN UNIT

The winter meeting of the Michigan Unit of the Catholic Library Association was held at Dominican High School, Detroit, Sunday, December 10, 1944, at 2:30 p. m. The Reverend Vincent Dieckman, O.F.M., librarian at Duns Scouts College and chairman of the Unit, opened the meeting.

The guest speaker, Mr. Ralph Ulveling, librarian of the Detroit Public Library, and president-elect of the American Library Association, discussed "The Modern Library In Action". Commenting, by way of introduction, on the early libraries in the East and their influence on the libraries in Europe, Mr. Ulveling pointed out that their purpose was mainly informational, and obtaining information was a lengthy and difficult process. The modern library as we know it today is an American development.

Mr. Ulveling went on to say that education is a life-long process. Formal education provides only the basis or pattern. The filling of that pattern is up to the individual and books are the best means at his disposal. Mr. Ulveling described what the library is doing today in terms of services: information, research, education, aesthetics and recreation. He spoke of some of the services which the Detroit Public Library has to offer of which some people are not even aware: the Union

catalog which will eventually contain the holdings of the Library of Congress and the six major reference libraries of Michigan; recordings for home use of operas, symphonies, plays, poetry, bird calls, and recordings in foreign languages. The speaker also described the use of microfilm and microprint in the Detroit Public Library and related in some detail what their use may mean to the resources of the individual library. He concluded by saying that the library is making its contribution in the field of human relations, for it is through education that individuals learn to know and understand others. The library is democratic; it serves all groups, all levels, all interests.

A discussion followed the address. One query was made about the policy of the Public Library in Detroit on books for which there would be a great popular demand. Mr. Ulveling replied that while requests made by patrons of the Library are taken into consideration when books are purchased, certain other standards are also considered. He added that if 10,000 requests were received for a book like *Forever Amber*, the Library still would not purchase it.

The program was continued in the round tables. A reading list on "Racial Unity" compiled by Father Vincent and Sister Claudia, librarian at Marygrove College, was distributed.

PACIFIC NORTHWEST REGIONAL CONFERENCE

The fifth annual meeting of the Pacific Northwest Regional Conference, formerly conducted under the title, Oregon-Washington Regional Unit, was held at the Chancery Building in Spokane, Washington, December 27-28, 1944. The first day was devoted to the executive board meeting; the meetings of the second day were attended by ninety delegates, representing seventeen cities and towns in Oregon, Washington and Idaho.

Miss Helen Kust was chairman of the business meeting held the morning of December 28. Brother David, C.S.C., Librarian at the University of Portland, talked on the necessity of professional training for school librarians. Brother defined education, showing that the library is the integrating force in the school and requires competence in the librarian.

A decision of the executive board was announced that a mimeographed news bulletin would be issued five times a year, each of the local units to be responsible for one issue.

A committee was appointed to draw up a resolution relative to a Catholic supplement to the *Children's Catalog*, to be sent both to the President of the Catholic Library Association and to the Elementary School Library Committee.

Reverend Bernard Barry, Diocesan Chancellor, opened the afternoon session. The Most Reverend Charles D. White, Bishop of Spokane, in his forceful address developed the theme that our chief concern as Catholic librarians is "what can and should be done to increase production and circulation of Catholic literature". Reverend A. D. Tourigny, S.J., librarian at Mount St. Michael's Scholasticate, discussed the importance of

philosophy in tomorrow's world. Miss Marian Dunne, publicity manager for the Bruce Publishing Company, gave an overall view of the boom in Catholic book publishing, its present situation and possibilities for the future.

Local unit reports gave evidence of the year's progress. Total membership increased to one hundred twenty-one. It was announced that ten new members in Coeur d'Alene, Idaho, are about to apply for admission as the seventh local unit of the Pacific Northwest Regional Conference.

The sixth annual meeting will be held in Seattle, Washington, December 27-28, 1945.

CATHOLIC PRESS MONTH

Anticipating this year's observance of Catholic Press Month in February, a few reports recently received are suggestive of plans for a successful and entertaining program.

Sister Mary Virginia, O.P., librarian of Dominican High School, Detroit, summarized the broad and interesting activities of last year. An attractive exhibit, sponsored by the Catholic Literature Committee of Our Lady's Sodality, with the assistance of the librarian, featured Catholic periodicals and newspapers from the United States and Canada. Short dramas were enacted in the auditorium, and several radio skits written and produced by the students. One clever skit entitled "The Devil Sat Down and Cried", was written by two freshmen, Pat O'Malley and Mary E. Schneider. The underlying theme of the skit was the work of the local Catholic press. The performance was probably in large measure responsible for the success of the students' drive for subscriptions to the

archdiocesan newspaper, *The Michigan Catholic*. More than 250 subscriptions were received. Editors of the newspaper cooperated by their presence at one of the Catholic Press Week programs, and by preparing for the student solicitors subscription blanks stamped with the name of the school.

* * *

In Canada, a successful Catholic Press Exhibit, sponsored by the Edmonton Junior Catholic Women's League, was held November 4-10. Though the range of books and periodicals was necessarily restricted because of the war, a very impressive display was arranged with gratifying results in increased sales and subscriptions. Addresses were delivered by guest speakers each evening during the week. Miss Mary M. Boyle is president of the League.

Librarians are encouraged to cooperate in the exhibition of Catholic publications during February and to participate in activities to foster the Catholic press. The Editor will welcome reports of programs for publication in *The Catholic Library World*.

PITTSBURGH BOOK FAIR

The Pittsburgh Unit sponsored a Catholic Book Fair as its principal activity for Catholic Book Week. This was held at Mount Mercy Academy Library in Pittsburgh. More than one thousand persons visited the various exhibits during the three days of the Fair and more than double the number of the books exhibited were sold.

The Unit also sponsored a local poster contest for Western Pennsylvania; distributed printed book lists and publicized all its activities in the local Catholic papers of the dioceses of Pittsburgh, Erie and

Altoona. Reverend Fintan E. Shoniker was Catholic Book Week Chairman.

The annual fall meeting was held in conjunction with the Book Fair. Sister M. Jerome of the department of English at Mount Mercy College, spoke on the "Relation of Society to the Modern Novel".

LITTLE, BROWN DISCONTINUES TEXTBOOKS

Little, Brown & Company announced that it has recently decided to discontinue publication of school and college textbooks, including Atlantic Monthly Press textbooks and has sold to D. C. Heath and Company of Boston its active textbook list.

Plans are under discussion between D. C. Heath and Company, Little, Brown & Company, and the Atlantic Monthly Press whereby textbooks issued by D. C. Heath and Company, which have had trade edition possibilities, will be handled in trade editions by Little, Brown & Company; trade books or manuscripts originating at Little, Brown & Company and the Atlantic Monthly Press, which have textbook possibilities, will be handled in textbook editions by D. C. Heath and Company.

1945 SHORT STORY CONTEST

The 1945 annual short story contest conducted under the auspices of the Literary Awards Foundation of the Catholic Press Association opens January 15 and closes March 12. The contest is open to all professional and amateur writers with a view to increasing the number of good stories and discovering talent among inexperienced writers.

Manuscripts may vary in length from 2,000 to 4,000 words. Authors may submit as many manuscripts as they please,

but all manuscripts must be submitted through a magazine that is an active member of the Catholic Press Association. No manuscripts may be mailed by authors directly to the Literary Awards Committee. The committee allows the participating magazines to adapt the contest to suit their own needs, providing the general rules are observed, suggesting that additional awards or inducements be offered, and the contest adequately publicized. Each contest will select the three best manuscripts received and will forward them no later than March 24, 1945, to: Reverend Hyacinth Blocker, O.F.M., Literary Awards Committee, 1615 Republic Street, Cincinnati 10, Ohio.

A panel of judges, appointed by the Literary Awards Committee, will choose the national prize winners, announcing them on April 9, 1945. The first prize is \$250.00; second prize, \$100.00; third prize, \$75.00.

Magazines submitting the three prize winning manuscripts retain the exclusive right to publish. Stories will not be syndicated.

UNIT ORGANIZED IN SCRANTON

Application has been made to the Catholic Library Association for approval of a new Unit to be organized as the Scranton-Wilkes-Barre Unit, comprising the area of the Diocese of Scranton.

Organization was proposed at a meeting of the high school supervisors and librarians held December 14th at the University of Scranton. Reverend John Maher, Diocesan Superintendent of Schools, presided. The Very Reverend W. Coleman Nevils, S.J., gave the address of welcome. Sister M. Edmund, R.S.M., Principal of Saint Ann's High School, Freeland, Pa., outlined the need for developing libraries

in the schools of the diocese. Dr. Helen Butler, of the faculty of Marywood College School of Library Science, discussed "Libraries and Accrediting Agencies". The purpose of the Catholic Library Association was explained by Miss Dorothy Lynn, Secretary-Treasurer of the Association. Tentative plans for an institute for librarians were presented by Sister M. Norberta, Librarian, Marywood College. Reverend Aloysius J. Miller, S.J., Director of the University of Scranton Library, closed the meeting with a word of encouragement, and an hospitable invitation to the group to return again to the University of Scranton.

The next meeting is scheduled for January 25th at St. Mary's Auditorium, Wilkes-Barre.

MARIAN LIBRARY PROGRESSES

The Marian Library, organized as a project of the Marianist Fathers at the University of Dayton, Dayton, Ohio, reports definite progress in the December issue of the *Newsletter*. Especially noteworthy was the checking of almost a thousand Marian titles of the New York Public Library against the Library's union catalogue with the result that several hundred new titles have been added to the list. The complete Marian booklist of the St. Louis Public Library has also been published, and notable additions made. The present Marian Library booklist approximates 2500 titles. Steps are being taken to have the list printed.

LIBRARIAN OF CONGRESS HONORED

An exhibition in commemoration of the administration of Archibald MacLeish as Librarian of Congress has been prepared by his associates upon the occasion

of his withdrawal to become Assistant Secretary of State. The exhibition is on display in the main entrance hall. In three sections, it reflects Mr. MacLeish's accomplishments as librarian, poet and literary statesman.

NEW EDITION OF LIBRARY MANUAL

Marie A. Toser has completely rewritten the *Library manual* (H. W. Wilson Company. rev. ed. 92p.) adding new illustrations and making some changes in format. The manual aims to give high school students the essential of a course in the use of books and libraries; in twelve brief lessons, using the students' observation, activity and interest as far as possible. Exercises are given as a part of each unit.

An objective quiz for each of the twelve lessons and a final examination accompany each manual. They are in an envelope placed inside the back cover of the book.

THE TALBOT COLLECTION

(Continued from page 120)

be made of an unpublished poem of G. K. Chesterton, "To the Charioteers of St. Louis", written on the letterhead of Hotel Statler, St. Louis, and dated March 19, 1921. There are three quatrains; and the poem would appear to be an apology in verse for failing to keep an engagement. But who were the Charioteers? And what was the occasion on which they were disappointed? Perhaps some St. Louisan will be able to enlighten us.

Cardinal Mercier, the poet Father Tabb, Father Jaime Castiello, S.J., and Father

Stephen Eckert, O.F.M.Cap., are also represented in the collection. It will probably suffice to mention their well-known names.

The collection was publicly exhibited for the first time at a dinner in honor of Father Talbot at the Hotel Commodore in New York on September 26, 1944, and it was on display at Georgetown early in November of this year. It is certainly a great monument to the distinguished priest whose name it bears—and also to its creator, Miss Mary A. Benjamin.

BEST SELLERS OF 1944

(Concluded from page 117)

- **Lecompte. *The glory of the Mohawks*. Bruce.
- **Lewis. *The screwtape letters*. Macmillan.
- **McAuliffe. *Father Tim*. Bruce.
- **Maguire. *The captain wears a cross*. Macmillan. (CB—Jan. 1944)
- **Morgan. *The listening post*. Putnam.
- **Murphy. *The scarlet lily*. Bruce. (Bruce-Extension Magazine Prize Winner. Two printings sold—P.W. Dec. 16, 1944.)
- **Murrett. *Tar heel apostle*. Longmans.
- **Raymond. *Three religious rebels*. Kenedy. (CB—Sept. 1944) (20,000 printed. 30,000 printed of *The family that overtook Christ*—P.W. Dec. 2, 1944.)
- **Sharkey. *White smoke over the Vatican*. Bruce.
- **Sheen. *Love one another*. Kenedy.
- Sheen. *Philosophies at war*. Scribner.
- Spellman. *Action this day*. Scribner. (CB—Dec. 1943)
- **Spellman. *The risen soldier*. Macmillan.
- **Walsh. *St. Teresa of Avila*. Bruce. (CB—Sept. 1943)
(Catholic Literary Award winner, 1944)
- **Ward. *Gilbert Keith Chesterton*. Sheed. (CB—Oct. 1943)
- Werfel. *The song of Bernadette*. Viking. (CB—May, 1942; Book of the Month Club selection, June, 1942.)

New Books

Art

FRENKLEY, ALEXANDER. *Stones of glory—stones of France. A pictorial sequence of French architectural monuments.* With a letter by Jacques Maritain. New York, International University Press, 1944. xxxii, 140p.

A brief outline of the historical background of the architectural monuments of France, arranged in the order of the five great periods: the Gallo-Roman, the Mediaeval, the Renaissance, the Classical, and the Modern Periods. Excellent photographs, taken by the author during his travels, illustrate the text. Though they are necessarily grouped in the section following the historical description, because of the glossy paper used, they follow the same chronological arrangement.

Fiction

KENNY, VIRGINIA ARVILLE. *Convent boarding school.* Sheed and Ward, 1944. 209p. \$2.00.

"Virginia Arville Kenny read and resented some recent writings on convent education." So say Miss Kenny's publishers on the attractive jacket of this disappointing book. I have read and resented Miss Kenny's writings on convent education. "... So, in her last years of college, she brought out her sixth-grade compositions about her daily life in convent boarding school . . . and made them into a book. The result is convent life mirrored in the eyes of an eleven-year-old girl." Alas, I disagree. This is not convent life or convent boarding school as I have known it. In particular the little-girl-Miss-Kenny-used-to-be was a very unreal little girl, a young introvert whose teachers, quite contrary to the practice of all teaching sisters I have known, encouraged, nay cultivated, her introversion. She was abnormal in her relationships both in school and out. Her reactions to her companions, to her elders, to her studies were not those of the normal or average convent boarding school girl. As a result, the picture she draws of teachers, schoolmates, and educational progress in a supposedly typical convent boarding school is unreal. Her book fails of its purpose and is a distinct disappointment to those who know convent boarding schools for the blessedly normal institutions that they are.

History

DUNNE, PETER MASTEN, S.J. *Pioneer Jesuits in Northern Mexico.* University of California Press, 1944. 227p. \$3.00.

This is the third volume in a series devoted to the work of the Jesuits in the historical growth of Spanish North America. Specialists in the history of Western America will appreciate its scholarship, vouched for by the eminent historian, Dr. Herbert E. Bolton; but the general reader will also find it an absorbing book, for Father Dunne has written with a warmth that matches the thrilling story he has to tell.

Charles G. McManus, S.J.

Juvenile

BIBLE. N.T. *Story of Jesus. A little New Testament for Catholic children.* Illustrated by Maud and Miska Petersham. Macmillan, 1944. 119p. \$1.50.

The story is taken directly from the Confraternity of Christian Doctrine edition of the New Testament. The illustrations will appeal even to the very young child who will, however, have to grow up to an appreciation of the language of the text. Suitable for the intermediate grades.

HEWES, AGNES DANFORTH. *Two oceans to Canton; the story of the Old China Trade.* Knopf, 1944. 184p. \$2.00.

No adventure yarn is packed with more excitement than this portrait of our commerce with China. The courage and daring of the Yankee skippers in their wind-jammers is here in all its glory as well as a good slice of American history and world geography. The numerous colored maps and other illustrations are most helpful. Every school should have a copy!

R. J. Hurley

HOFFMAN, SYLVAN AND GRATTAN, C. HARTLEY. *News of the nation.* Doubleday, 1944. \$2.00.

This newest tool for teaching social studies consists of forty-one individual four-page issues of a newspaper which brings to life American history from 1941 to Pearl Harbor. It is a miniature newspaper packing a journalistic punch, reflecting fashions, books, science, invention and most of all people and events. Lively cartoons and pictures, columns and de-

partments—here it all is enclosed in a handy portfolio. It is the most original and direct method we have yet seen for bringing yesterday's headlines into today's classrooms. Every school should stock this "newspaper history."

R. J. Hurley

LAHEY, THOMAS A., C.S.C. *King of the pygmies*. St. Anthony Guild, 1944. vi, 289p. \$2.00.

An African adventure story for early teen-age boys.

LENSKI, LOIS. *Puritan adventure*. Lippincott, 1944. 223p. \$2.00.

The struggle for existence by the Massachusetts Bay Colony is vividly told and pictured in this latest contribution by Miss Lenski. Aunt Charity's arrival brings some of the gayety of "merrie" England for the children in spite of official disapproval. A fine historical interpretation for upper grades.

R. J. Hurley

MCCRACKEN, HAROLD. *Son of the walrus king*; drawings by Lynn Bogue Hunt. Lippincott, 1944. 128p. \$2.00.

From his rich personal background of knowledge of Alaska, the author draws another story—this time of Aivik, a walrus. From his birth on an iceberg amid a blizzard in Bering Strait, we follow his adventures with killer whales, polar bears and Eskimo hunters in the Arctic desolation. Well-written and informative. For intermediate and upper grades.

R. J. Hurley

PORAZINSKA, JANINA. *In Voytus' little house*. 47p.

My village. 46p. Translated from the Polish by Lucia Merecka Borski. Illustrated by Stanislaw Bobinski. Roy. 1944. \$1.25 ea.

Folk legends simply told and cleverly illustrated for the pre-school child. Ages, 4-7.

SCHOENEN, HERMANN. *The story behind steel*. Knopf, 1944. 94p. \$1.75.

To the story of coal has been added the fascinating recital of steel—the metal giant of today's war and peace. From the iron ore, coal and limestone we watch the chemical puzzle untangle until we have pipes, rails, tin cans, engines, shells, tanks and a dozen other necessities of this Steel Age. Exceptional photographs, some in color. A real addition to scientific information for both elementary and high school.

R. J. Hurley

VAN DER VELDT, JAMES A., O.F.M. *The city set on a hill: the story of the Vatican*. Illustrated with photographs. Dodd, Mead and Company, 1944. vi, 299p. \$2.50.

This is an illustrated description of the State of Vatican City, its organization, buildings, museums, people and history, pre-eminently suitable for teen-age groups.

Leonard Wolf, Ph.D.

WHITE, WILLIAM C. *Made in the USSR*. Knopf, 1944. 159p. \$2.00.

A satisfactory description of the growth and development of a world power we all must know and understand, from the nomad tribes of early centuries to the sixteen republics of today. Changes in social life and customs, the arts and crafts, modern industry and postwar possibilities clearly presented. For junior high school. Sixth of "Made In Series."

Literature

CONNOLLY, TERENCE L., S.J. *Francis Thompson: in his paths*. Bruce, 1944. 203p. \$2.75.

The foremost authority on Thompsoniana in the United States writes a diary of his pilgrimage to shrines hallowed by their association with Francis Thompson. Father Connolly, curator of one of the world's finest collections of Thompson manuscripts, gives an easily readable account of his journey, a reverent and enthusiastic description of the sights he saw, and an interesting record of his interviews with Wilfred Meynell, Mother Austin and Archbishop Keneally, contemporaries of Thompson who have survived him. The book is chuck-full of literary lore about a great poet, his life, his times and his friends.

Aloysius J. Miller, S.J.

Philosophy

MOORE, DOM THOMAS V., O.S.B., M.D. *Personal mental hygiene*. Grune & Stratton, 1944. vi, 331p. \$4.00.

The aim of this excellent work is to supply the neglect of most psychiatrists to take into account the spiritual and intellectual nature of man. Secular authors generally neglect ideals and principles and hence tend to suggest adjustments and cures by mechanisms to be found on the emotional level alone. Father Moore ably points out the possibilities of the ordinary emotional adjustments and at the same time brings into the total picture the higher attitudes of mind, the ideals and principles of a religious and intellectual level which of necessity are an integral part of any human personality and its problems.

John J. Coniff, S.J.

Religion

DE LA BEDOYERE, MICHAEL. *Christianity in the market place*. Bruce, 1944. 137p. \$2.00.

The author of *Christian crisis* follows up his plea for a more spontaneous Christian living, offering practical suggestions for bringing Christ back to the world through education,

strengthening of devotion to parish and family, and cooperation and organization of Catholics throughout the country, and political Christian cooperation between Catholics and non-Catholics. His call throughout is for extraordinary Christianity in ordinary affairs.

JOSEPHINE, SISTER M. *Peace grows in my garden.* Kenedy, 1944. xiv, 174p. \$2.00.

Meditative and devotional reflections on sin, virtue, self conquest and growth toward union with God, with practical suggestions directed particularly to those living in religious communities.

LEWIS, CLIVE S. *The problem of pain.* Macmillan, 1944. x, 148p. \$1.50.

This is a book to be read slowly, meditated upon, but by all means to be read. Mr. Lewis is not afraid of the truth, even when the truth is hard; emotional considerations do not intrude. He is aware of the gap between ideals and practice, but he does not for that reason shorten the ideals. The problem is discussed both from the divine and the human point of view, and while the study is strongly personal, his conclusions are consistent with the best that has been written on this ever urgent problem.

Charles Denecke, S.J.

LORD, DANIEL A., S.J. *Let me lead my own life!* Queen's Work, 1944. 40p. \$0.10.

A talk to youth, showing the danger of following "modern" standards.

E. P. W.

MANNING, HENRY EDWARD CARDINAL. *The eternal priesthood.* Newman Book Shop, 1944. 286p. \$1.50.

This conveniently edited, neat little reprint of an old classic contains so much of what every priest ought to know about himself and so much of what the faithful ought to know about their priests that it cannot but be welcome. The great Cardinal's masterpiece is filled up, pressed down and overflowing with the teaching of the Fathers, Doctors and Theologians of the Church on the priesthood. He gives us a treatise with all the profundity and erudition of a theologian but with a simplicity and directness that brings his work within the ken of the unlearned. There is here teaching that will inspire greater knowledge and love for the Divine Institution of the Last Supper.

Aloysius J. Miller, S.J.

MULVEY, JOSEPH F. *Preparations and prayers for children's confessions.* St. Anthony Guild, 1944. 20p.

Intended as a "text for class, a review of catechism, an occasional prayer book for children."

E. P. W.

PARENTE, PASCAL P., S.T.D. *The ascetical life.* Herder, 1944. viii, 271p. \$2.50.

In this translation and revision of his Latin lectures on ascetical theology, the author gives a concise and systematic treatise on the fundamental principles of Christian asceticism. The work is intended to be an introduction and does not treat any of the problems thoroughly and completely. After discussing the nature and the common means of attaining Christian perfection, the author studies the degrees in the spiritual life and the ways of perfection. Throughout the teaching of the Fathers of the Church is frequently cited. A general bibliography of ascetical and mystical writers, incomplete in bibliographical details, appears at the end of the work.

Aloysius J. Miller, S.J.

PEPLER, REV. CONRAD, O.P. *Lent: a liturgical commentary on the lessons and gospels.* Herder, 1944. x, 406p. \$4.00.

Priests will find in this book a wealth of material to use in their Lenten sermons and instructions. Those who make a daily meditation will find it an excellent book of thoughts for meditation, especially since they will be following the official prayer of the Church. All Catholics will find the book very helpful, in particular for their active participation in the offering of the Holy Sacrifice.

Richard J. Neu, S.J.

RELIGIOUS OF THE CENACLE. *Little ways to Calvary.* Queen's Work, 1944. 31p. \$0.05.

A series of meditations on the Stations of the Cross, "arranged for use with the Spiritual Exercises of St. Ignatius" but suitable for general use.

E. P. W.

RYAN, MOST REV. FINBAR, O.P., Abp. of Port of Spain. *Our Lady of Fatima.* Westminster, Md., Newman Book Shop, 1944. 236p. \$1.25.

A complete record of the apparitions of Our Lady at Fatima, Portugal, from May to September 1917 and of subsequent events. An appendix gives "The Fatima Address of Pope Pius XII". Bibliographical notes.

E. P. Willging

Sociology

SHEEN, FULTON J. *Seven pillars of peace.* Scribner, 1944. 112p. \$1.75.

The seven pillars of good will, morality, personality, family, freedom and world unity are erected as the one strong and indestructible foundation for peace.

